

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PGOV, JO, SA, US, XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING--SAUDI RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN JULY 18, HE
CONFIRMED HIS RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA HAD SUCCESSFULLY
RESOLVED QUESTION OF \$140 MILLION HAWK PAYMENT. VISIT ALSO GAVE
OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE ON PEACE PROCESS. WHILE SAUDIS WERE NON-
COMMITTAL IN RESPONSE TO KING'S VIEWS, HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY EXCHANGE
AND INTENDS TO VISIT WITH SAUDIS MORE FREQUENTLY. ADDITIONALLY,
HE NOTED CINC BIN SHAKER HAD VISITED WITH SAUDI MINDEF SULTAN TWO
DAYS AGO TO ELICIT SAUDI SUPPORT IN EVENT OF MILITARY ATTACK.
END SUMMARY.

2. I SAW KING HUSSEIN JULY 18 AND WE DISCUSSED HIS
RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER RELATED DEVELOP-
MENTS. ON THE HAWK MONEY QUESTION, KING SAID HE WAS
SATISFIED ISSUE WAS NOW SETTLED. (SAUDI AMBASSADOR
IN AMMAN HAS TOLD ME THAT THIS IS ALSO HIS VIEW
AFTER HAVING PARTICIPATED IN KING'S VISIT.)

3. KING SAID THAT SAUDIS HAD ADMITTED A MISTAKE IN
SENDING THE CHECK TO JORDAN AND JORDANIANS HAD EQUALLY
ADMITTED A MISTAKE IN HAVING USED IT AS THEY DID.

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SAUDIS HAD AGREED TO ADD THE \$140 MILLION PAYMENT TO
THE END OF THEIR CURRENT INSTALLMENTS. THE SAUDIS
ALSO AGREED THAT JORDAN COULD KEEP THE \$140 MILLION
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF ABOUT \$60 MILLION PER YEAR IN
RABAT PAYMENTS FOR EACH OF 1976 AND 1977. SAUDIS WOULD THROW
THE ADDITIONAL \$20 MILLION INTO THE DEAL ON THEIR OWN.

4. KING SAID ALSO THAT VISIT SEEMED TO HAVE HELPED CLEAR THE AIR ON OTHER MATTERS. HE HAD BEEN AWARE SAUDIS HAD BEEN ABOUT TO GIVE US AN ORDER TO CUT \$140 MILLION WORTH OF EQUIPMENT FROM HAWK DEAL, BUT HELD THAT UP PENDING HIS VISIT. VISIT HAD FURTHER ALLOWED HIM TO PROVIDE HIS VIEWS ON THE AREA SITUATION AND HIS ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. SAUDIS HAD LISTENED INTENTLY, BUT HAD BEEN NON-COMMITTAL IN THEIR RESPONSES. NEVERTHELESS, HE FELT ENCOURAGED ON THE POLITICAL FRONT AND WAS RESOLVED TO VISIT WITH SAUDIS MORE OFTEN AND TO TRY TO TAKE THEM MORE FREQUENTLY INTO HIS CONFIDENCE.

5. ON ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR JORDAN, KING SAID HE MADE CLEAR TO SAUDIS NOT ONLY HOW GRATEFUL HE WAS FOR PAST GIFTS, BUT HOW DEPENDENT FOR HIS SURVIVAL HE WAS ON CONTINUING SAUDI GENEROSITY. WHILE HE LEFT NO SPECIFIC REQUEST WITH SAUDIS (CLEARLY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNSEEMLY TO HAVE DONE SO) HE DID SAY THAT HE WOULD BE SPEAKING AGAIN WITH SAUDIS ABOUT HIS FUTURE NEEDS IN MORE COMPREHENSIVE FASHION.

6. FINALLY, KING SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER SULTAN HAD AGREED TO MEET WITH JORDAN CINC BIN SHAKER. THIS MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE IN LAST TWO DAYS AT
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TABUK. BIN SHAKER HAD SPOKEN WITH SAUDIS ABOUT WHAT SUPPORT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT BE ABLE TO RENDER TO JORDAN IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY ATTACK. KING SAID IN PARTICULAR, JORDANIANS HAD SPOKEN WITH SAUDIS ABOUT POSSIBLE USE ON A LOAN BASIS IN JORDAN NOW OF A LARGE NUMBER OF SWISS-MADE OERLIKON ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS WHICH JORDANIANS KNOW SAUDIS HAVE TAKEN DELIVERY OF BUT WHICH STILL REMAIN IN THE PACKING CRATES. BIN SHAKER TOLD KING THAT SAUDIS APPEARED TO BE GOING TO CONSIDER SUCH A PROPOSAL WITH SYMPATHY.

7. COMMENT: KING DID NOT SAY SO, BUT I SUSPECT THAT BIN SHAKER WAS ALSO ASKING WHAT SAUDIS CAN DO IN TERMS OF U.S. ORIGIN SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT RESUPPLY IN THE EVENT JORDAN GETS INTO A SHOOTING WAR. KING REMAINS STILL RATHER JITTERY OVER ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS. BIN SHAKER LET THIS JORDANIAN PROPOSAL SLIP DURING RECENT CODEL HAMILTON VISIT. WHILE HE SAID SAUDIS WERE INITIALLY NEGATIVE, IT WOULD BE MOST UNLIKE THE JORDANIANS TO GIVE UP WITHOUT A FURTHER APPROACH.
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